

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT CINCPACREP GUAM MARIANAS IS O 091446Z OCT 75

ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC QUOTE

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STATE PASS TO IATF FOR MRS TAFT FROM HERBERT

MEETING WITH REPATRIATES LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE, 9 OCTOBER.

1. FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL DOCK TRIALS OF VIETNAM THUONG TIN ONE
AND DECISION TO PROCEED WITH SEA TRIALS 10-11 OCTOBER, I MET WITH
REPATRIATE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE IN CAMP ASAN. THREE POINTS WERE
DISCUSSED:

A. REPATRIATION OPIONS

B. CONUS REPATRIATES TO JOIN

C. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

2. THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE OPEN TO REPATRIATES WAS DISCUSSED TO
THWART SOME KANGAROO COURTS REPORTED TO BE GETTING GEARED UP TO
DEAL WITH REPATRIATES WHO WISH TO REMAIN UNDER UNHCR AUSPICES.
AFTER DETAILED AND BUSINESS LIKE SESSION ON THAT SCORE, WAS
ADVISED THAT COMMITTEE WOULD PROPERLY REGARD REPATRIATES CHOICE IN
THIS MATTER. DISCUSSION OF CONUS REPATRIATES SPARKED VERY SPECIFIC
COMMENTS BY SEVERAL MODERATE MEMBERS WHO WERE VERY HARD NOSED IN
ANNOUNCING THAT IF CONUS REPATRIATES ARRIVAL IN GUAM DELAYED
DEPARTURE OF THE SHIP ALL REPATRIATES AT ASAN WOULD BE QUOTE
EXTREMELY ANGRY AND HARD TO CONTROL UNQUOTE. THIS OPINION AND POINT
WAS WELL MADE. MR THACH NOTED HE HAD DISSCUSSED THIS WITH MR KEELEY
LON 30 SEPTEMBER AFTER DRAMATIC DECISION ANNOUNCEMENT, HENCE DELAY IN
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BRINGING THEM HERE HARD TO UNDERSTAND. REACTION BY REPATRIATE

LEADERSHIP HERE IS AS EXPECTED AND PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. I CANNOT ESTIMATE HOW THE LATE ARRIVING CONUS REPATS WILL BE HANDLED BY THE MULTITUDE BUT SINCERELY BELIEVE THEY ARE IN FOR A ROUGH TIME, PERHAPS AFTER DEPARTURE. IN MY OPINION, NO COUNSELING TEAM AS CURRENTLY PLANNED WILL HELP. THESE GUYS WANT TO LEAVE.

3. RECENTLY, REPATRIATES HAVE BEEN LESS THAN FORTHCOMING IN ACCEPTING NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. I OUTLINED INTEREST SHOWN BY INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA, VIZ. A NEWSMAN FROM JAKARTA, BBC-TV HONG KONG, NBC, CBS, AND LOCAL STRINGERS, AND THE NEED FOR REPATRIATE SPOKESMAN TO SPEAK. THEY REACTED FAVORABLY. THEY HAVE SCHEDULED A CEREMONY FOR 11 OCTOBER TO PRESENT A BUILDING DECORATED WITH PAINTINGS BY ARTIST NGUYEN BINH TO GOVERNOR BORDALLO AND THE PEOPLE OF GUAM AS A GOOD-BYE GIFT. NOTE THIS IS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH COMPLETION OF THE SEA TRIALS.

4. RECOMMEND CONUS REPATS JOIN WITHOUT DELAY.

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